

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 300

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize James H. Wright upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicate their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is James H. Wright, who was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 7, 2015, for his ongoing legacy as a soil conservationist and farmer; and

WHEREAS, born September 2, 1933, to Olney and Annice Wright, James Wright was one of five siblings who grew up on the family farm; at age twelve, his lifelong love of farming began when his father gave him his first five calves; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Mt. Juliet High School in 1951, Mr. Wright remained on the farm; that same year, he and his brother, Coleman, grew a corn crop in what turned out to be one of the driest years, and the crop suffered, influencing Coleman to pursue an engineering career while James decided to persevere in farming; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, James Wright was raising dairy cows and growing crops when he met Wilma Hall at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office while he was filling out paperwork for his farm; and

WHEREAS, not long after meeting at the ASCS office, James Wright and Wilma Hall married in April of 1955; and

WHEREAS, in the early years of their marriage, Mr. Wright took public jobs operating heavy equipment in the highway construction industry to support his young wife and their three children, Mark, Eric, and Lisa, taking the family from Tennessee to Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Wright family eventually returned to Tennessee, where they built their home next to James Wright's parents' home on the family farm in Mt. Juliet; and

WHEREAS, melding his knowledge of agriculture and heavy equipment, Mr. Wright began a joint effort in farming and excavation, establishing his bulldozer business and forming a partnership with the Soil Conservation Program, which remains today; and

WHEREAS, James Wright made a name for himself in soil conservation, earning the respect of soil conservationists Walter Goodall, Jon Baker, Mike Adcock, and Christy Luna; he has been instrumental in clearing and digging ponds for many farmers in the Wilson County area and his expertise has been likened to that of a surgeon with a scalpel; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his excavation business, Mr. Wright continued his farming operation and in the early 1980s, was one of the first farmers to grow a no-till corn crop, which earned him the honor of being named the 1982 Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, James Wright bestowed his knowledge of farming on his sons, Mark and Eric, who still work in agriculture and continue to help their father on his 325-acre farm in Taylorsville; and

WHEREAS, even in his ninth decade, Mr. Wright hasn't considered retirement and continues to farm; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, he is thankful for the fifty-eight years of companionship he shared with his wife, the late Wilma Wright, and he enjoys the love and support of his three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, who visit the family farm often; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who commit their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles, and it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor James Wright for his valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize James H. Wright on the occasion of his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, as we reflect fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.